

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

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R 130801Z FEB 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1646

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L B A G H D A D 0 1 5 6

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IZ IR

SUBJ: IRAQI-IRANIAN RELATIONS

1. IRANIAN AMB SHAHIDZADA CALLED ON ME FEB 12 TO ASK ABOUT DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND ROWLAND EVANS VISITS. HE HAD RECEIVED ACCOUNT FROM EGYPTIAN AMB AL-NAGGAR AND SEEMS TO HAVE EXAGGERATED IDEAS ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE THESE VISITS FOR U S-IRAQI RELATIONS. HE WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN WHAT SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD TOLD THEM ABOUT CONFLICT WITH IRAN.

2. I SAID I HAD RECEIVED ONLY BRIEF ACCOUNTS FROM MESSERS. ROCKEFELLER AND EVANS ABOUT THEIR MEETINGS WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN, BUT THAT I HAD IMPRESSION THAT NO BREAKTHROUGH OF ANY KIND HAD OCCURED ON U S-IRAQI RELATIONS. I UNDERSTOOD ALSO THAT SADDAM STILL HELD STRONGLY TO VIEW THAT U S, IRAQ AND ISRAEL ENGAGED IN CONSPIRACY AIMED AT IRAQ.

2. SHAHIDZADA TOLD ME THAT IRAN WAS NOW SEEKING TO COME TO TERMS WITH IRAQ SINCE THEY BOTH HAD INTEREST IN REGIONAL STABILITY. HE SAID IRAN HAD PRESENTED ITS PROPOSALS FOR PACKAGE SETTLEMENT AT ISTANBUL AND BEEN PROMISED AN ANSWER BY GOI. SHAHIDZADA EXPRESSED LOW OPINION OF HAMMADI AS NEGOTIATOR, SAYING HE HAD NEITHER AUTHORITY NOR PERSONALITY TO BE EFFECTIVE. (THIS IS ALSO SOMETHING HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN FROM AL-NAGGAR.) SHAHIDZADA SAID GOI HAD NOT YET

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RESPONDED TO IRANIAN PROPOSALS AND IN MEANTIME HAD LAUNCHED

UNPRECEDENTED PROPAGANDA ATTACK AGAINST IRAN RELATED TO ANTI-IRANIAN CONFERENCE (BAGHDAD 120). NORMALLY, HE WOULD LEAVE COUNTRY UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BUT HIS GOVT HAS ORDERED HIM TO STAY IN ORDER NOT TO APPEAR TO SHUT DOOR ON NEGOTIATIONS.

4. SHAHIDZADA SPECULATED THAT SADDAM IS FACING INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO HIS POLICIES OF REGIONAL RAPPROACHEMENT AND IS PERHAPS UNABLE TO CONTROL PROPAGANDA ORGANS, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF PARTY, AND OTHER GROUPS. HE SEEMS TO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IS LEADER IRAN COULD DEAL WITH. HE MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN SADDAM AND SHAH AT OPEC SUMMIT. I AGREED THAT POSITIVE NATURE OF SADDAM'S POLICIES DURING PAST YEAR ARE SUFFICIENT THAT IRAN AND OTHER NEIGHBORS SHOULD TEST HIS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR RAPPROACHEMENT.

LOWRIE

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